

# I Love My Addiction

## A Program with a Purpose – Exposing Your Value to God

1 Corinthians 16:15

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### Lesson One

## I Am Sick and Tired

### Remove What You Think and Replace it with What God Thinks

**“Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh *and* intermeddleth with all wisdom”**  
(Proverbs 18:1).

The first step in your adventure to freedom begins with realizing your need for HELP! Psalm 38 gives us an example of someone who has hit bottom and was ready to change their Master:

**“O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. *There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.* For mine iniquities are gone over my head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink *and* are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a loathsome *disease*: and *there is no soundness in my flesh.* I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of my disquietness of my heart.”** (Psalm 38:1-8)

Our Psalmist realized that God was not happy with his addictive activities; he also knew God was punishing him for his evil ways.

1. He cried for help—**“O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath:”**
2. He told God that he knew his evil ways were the cause of his distress—**“*neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.*”**
3. He was tired of the old addictive ways that had robbed him of health and happiness—**“I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.”**
4. He was a broken man—**“I am feeble and sore broken:”**

King David was ready for the helping hand of God:

**“Lord, all my desire *is* before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee. My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me. My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off. They also that seek after my life lay snares *for me*: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. But I, as a deaf *man*, heard not; and *I was* as a dumb man *that* openeth not his mouth. Thus I was as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth *are* no reproofs.”** (Psalm 38:9-14)

King David declared his willingness to change masters from self to the Saviour:

**“For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O lord my God. For I said, *Hear me*, lest *otherwise* they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify *themselves* against me. For I *am* ready to halt, and my sorrow *is* continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin. But mine enemies *are* lively, *and* they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied. They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow *the thing that good is*. Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O lord of my salvation.”**  
(Psalm 38:15-22)

1. His plea was that the LORD would hear and answer his prayer – **“O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear,”**
2. He knew without the help of the Good Shepherd, his addictions would prevail – **“*Hear me*, lest *otherwise* they should rejoice over me:”**
3. He was ready for a change – **“For I *am* ready to halt,”**
4. He admitted that his addictive habits were sin – **“For I will declare mine iniquity;”**
5. He was sorry, not because he was caught red-handed, but because his sin had caused hurt to the God of Heaven – **“I will be sorry for my sin.”**
6. He realized that his road to recovering would have many enemies and snares – **“But mine enemies *are* lively, and they are strong:”**
7. He claimed God as his own – **“O LORD: O my God,”**
8. He pleaded for the help of God – **“Make haste to help me, O lord of my salvation.”**

God heard His cry and came running to his rescue! Once you have concluded that everything you have tried has failed and you are ready and willing to seek the God of the Bible for help, your freedom adventure will begin too! **“I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me”** (Proverbs 8:17). To launch this freedom rapidly, you must be willing to replace what you think with what God thinks concerning every area of your life. You can accomplish this by allowing men of God to instruct you in the ways of God. This program is not confined to your freedom only; its design will enable you to share your newfound power over your addiction with others—*A Program with a Purpose!* Studying, applying, and teaching others will be the formula for a productive future!

Throughout the Bible, you will find people with addictions: Noah's addiction was obedience, Abraham was addicted to faith, Moses was addicted to displaying God's power, David was addicted to prayer and worship, Jeremiah was addicted to preaching the Word of God, Paul was addicted to soul-winning, Stephanas was addicted to the ministry, and JESUS IS ADDICTED TO US! Glory!

### **Jesus – The Good Shepherd**

During His earthly ministry, Jesus asked His disciples this question, **“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”** (Matthew 16:13-15).

Peter was crystal-clear in His response to the question posed by Jesus, **“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven”** (Matthew 16:16, 17).

The Good Shepherd is none other than Jesus Christ, God in the flesh! Many religions say that He is a prophet, some say a good man, but the Scripture is clear that He is God. He left the comfort of Heaven so we could have a home there; He came in the form of a man to provide us with an eternal body like His, but most of all, He died so we could live forever with Him! Jesus came not only to provide eternal life but with Him in our hearts; our journey through life can be filled with peace, joy, happiness, and free from all destructive addictions! **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”** (Romans 5:1). Jesus was willing to die and go to Hell for us rather than spend eternity in Heaven without us!

We will begin the study of the Good Shepherd by displaying Biblical proof that He is not only the Son of God but God the Son! Understanding this truth will make it easier to follow Him wherever He leads.

**“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I *say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.”** (Colossians 1:12-20) (underline added)

This passage in the Word of God clearly explains that Jesus is the creator of all things. Genesis 1:1 says, **“In the beginning God created...”** thus, Jesus is not only the Son of God, but He is God the Son. The Apostle Paul again makes this clear in 1 Timothy 3:14-16:

**“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”** (1 Timothy 3:14-16)

Again, the Apostle Paul affirms the truth that Jesus is God the Son to the believers in the church of Corinth:

**“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him [Jesus] *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”** (2 Corinthians 5:20, 21). (Emphasis added)

By faith, you must accept who Jesus is before you understand all He did for you—the Who before the What! Jesus Christ, your Instructor, stepped out of the glory of Heaven so you could have a mansion there. He took every person's punishment and gave the born again believer a complete pardon for all their past, present, and future sins. He then offers them all the information they will ever need to live a tremendous, productive, and peaceful life here on this earth. This information is readily available in the pages of the Bible. Jesus made this statement concerning the marks of a born again child of God, **“And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it”** (Luke 8:21). Therefore, the critical principle in changing your destructive addictions into productive ones is not only to hear the Word of God but to DO EVERYTHING IT SAYS!

Another reference in the New Testament concerning complete obedience to God’s Word is in Luke chapter eleven:

**“And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed *is* the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it”** (Luke 11:27, 28).

This nice lady was trying to give Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus, the glory for her part in what Jesus came to do. However, Christ kindly instructed her not to give any glory to a human but simply read the Word of God, do what it says, and be blessed. Mary gave glory to God because she also realized that she needed a saviour too; **“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour”** (Luke 1:46, 47).

The Bible you hold in your hands is not just a book; it is a letter of instructions narrated and delivered to all humanity by the world's Creator. It is filled with promises and rewards for obedience and describes how to get right with God and stay right with Him. **“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all *them that are about him*”** (Psalm 89:7). It is evident in Scripture that He will only put up with an addiction to sin for a short time. God is longsuffering, but He also has a point where He must exercise the punishment designed for all who will defy Him; **“All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death”** (1 John 5:17).

**“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ”** (1 Corinthians 2:16). Critics have tried to discredit the Bible, the devil questions It, God-haters have attempted to burn It, educators ridicule It, and our federal government has tried to remove It from all their institutions. However, the True God of Heaven has preserved His Word forever! **“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding”** (Proverbs 2:6).

God has given us many signs of preserving His Word through the ages, but one of these signs comes to my attention in modern-day times. As far as I know, this miracle was never reported on CNN or any other conservative or liberal news media. September 11, 2001, was a day that most Americans would remember as a day of great destruction by terrorist attacks. Our country has not experienced this form of attack since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The terrorist destroyed the Twin Towers; the Pentagon was severely damaged, and a horrific crash happened in a field just outside the small village of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The crash occurred when a group of true Americans on Flight 93 fought the terrorists keeping them from doing further damage to America. Journalist Tom Lavis of the *Tribune-Democrat* wrote an article entitled *Symbol of Faith*, which, if widely publicized, would and should cause the world to take a look at the Bible in a different light.

*“If the world is looking for a sign of hope in the turmoil that erupted on September 11, 2001, it may have found it. Teams of emergency personnel who responded to the crash of Flight 93 near Shanksville made an amazing discovery that shocked and inspired them. Resting not far from the smoldering, 25-foot-deep crater where 40 innocent victims perished, firefighters found a Bible that was barely singed.”*

## Jesus is Truth

**“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”** (John 17:17). To be sanctified is to be set apart from your destructive addictive habits. You can be set apart by applying the truth of God’s Word to every area of your life. **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever”** (Psalm 111:10). To fear His name is not to be afraid of Him like He is out to get you, but it means to reverence Him realizing that you are in His very presence wherever you go. When you live your life like Jesus, the Truth, is right beside you every moment of your life; rest assured your new way of life will grant you a full recovery!

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”** (John 1:1-4)

1. Notice that the **“Word”** is capitalized – This is because it is a proper name
2. Notice that the **“Word was with God”** – Jesus did not come into existence on Christmas morning; He is the image of the invisible God, He is the physical body of the Trinity, God in the flesh, and He has always existed.

3. Notice that the **“Word was God”** – Jesus is just as much God as the Father and the Holy Spirit.
4. Notice that all things were made by the **“Word”** – when the Bible says, **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”** (Genesis 1:1), Jesus did the creating!
5. Notice that there is life in the **“Word”** – God's Word is very clear that the only way to Heaven is through Jesus; **“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12).
6. Notice that there is light in the **“Word”** – We are to let the light of Jesus shine in our lives so others will also accept Jesus as their path to Heaven; **“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”** (Matthew 5:16).

Now notice that the **“Word,”** which is **“Truth,”** became flesh—that is Jesus! **“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”** (John 1:14).

Who is Truth?

1. Jesus is the only begotten of the Father (begotten means to come from)
2. Jesus is the glory of the Father
3. Jesus is the source of grace to defeat addiction
4. Jesus is the author of each truth found in the Bible
5. Jesus not only has the answer, but He is the answer
6. Jesus is the sure way to recovery
7. Jesus is the source of a successful life
8. He is the only way to eternal life
9. He even says that His Word is to be magnified higher than His name; **“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name”** (Psalm 138:2).

Thomas, one of the disciples, asked Jesus this question, **“Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?”** (John 14:5). Jesus would then, with a straightforward yet direct answer, respond to Thomas’ question, **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (John 14:6). **Therefore, JESUS IS THE WORD, AND JESUS IS THE TRUTH!**

All the principles in this program are directly from the teachings of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Many promises are given for accepting His teachings and applying them to your life. For instance, **“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”** (Joshua 1:8). The Bible gives great and precious promises to all those who choose to follow His Word. Therefore, when you begin to apply these three elements found in this great verse to your life, God has no other choice but to make you **“prosperous”** and give you **“good success.”** God is a promise keeper; **“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips”** (Psalm 89:34).

1. Memorize Scripture and often speak of the Lord Jesus; **“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth...”**
2. Meditate or think on what He is trying to teach you as you read; **“...but thou shalt meditate therein day and night...”**
3. Make up your mind that with His help, you will do everything He tells you to do in His Word; **“...that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein...”**
4. Prosperity and success are the promised results; **“...for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”**
5. Prosperity and success are not measured by the amount of money you possess but by the volume of peace you have; **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”** (Romans 5:1).

Those who have a close relationship with the God of Heaven can lay their head on their pillow each night knowing that all is well with them and the Creator—that is success!

### **To Be Known of God**

The Apostle Paul asked the new believers in Galatia, **“Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”** (Galatians 4:8, 9). Knowing about God would serve you well, but



when you make Him your Shepherd and Master, you will be known of Him! Who would want their old destructive ways when the God of Heaven, the Creator of the universe, knows you, loves you, and will fight the demons of your addictions for you?

The two driving forces to conquer any addiction are first, to allow Jesus to be your Instructor, and then, have a teachable spirit; **“Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name”** (Psalm 86:11). Notice the three elements in this verse:

1. The Psalmist makes his prayerful request to the Instructor to **“Teach me thy way...”**
2. Then, the Psalmist commits to **“...walk in thy truth...”**
3. Lastly, he again makes his request; **“...unite my heart to fear thy name.”**

To fear the name of God is to live every moment of your life like He is standing directly beside you—He is, in Spirit! As earlier stated, the Bible is the mind of God in the mouth of Jesus. He inspired men to write the Bible and then preserved it for the English-speaking people through the Authorized King James Bible. The Apostle Paul stated it like this:

**“For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;)* a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity”** {verity means a true statement} (1 Timothy 2:3-7). (Underline and definition added)

Jesus inspired every word in the Bible; He told the prophets what to write. There are only two places in the Bible that use the word **inspiration**. The first location is found in the Old Testament; **“But *there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding*”** (Job 32:8). You will not be able to understand everything you read in the Word of God. You must accept it by faith, ask God to help you comprehend the meaning, and keep reading.

The second place we find the word **inspiration** is in the New Testament. It deals with the fact that man did not write the Bible, but holy men of God penned down what God told them; **“All scripture *is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*”** (2 Timothy 3:16). God’s Word is profitable for:

1. Doctrine – what is right
2. Reproof – the need to get right

3. Correction – how to get right
4. Instruction – how to stay right

Two places in the Bible reference having total freedom from addictions by using the phrase, **“make you free.”**

1. **“And ye shall know the truth {Jesus}, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:32).
2. **“If the Son {Jesus} therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”** (John 8:36).

The first one says it is by the **“Truth”**; the second verse says the **“Son”** will make you free. So, when you know Jesus the Son as your personal Saviour, you know the **“Truth”** that will make you free. That is a promise for you! Jesus did not say you might be free; He said if you choose to change from serving yourself to serving Jesus, the Good Shepherd, He WILL **“make you free”!**

**“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading”** (Nehemiah 8:8). God has given men of God the understanding of His Word and has given us the burden to take these truths to the lost and dying world. Nehemiah read the book of the law distinctly or plainly, and he gave the people the wisdom and the ability to teach this wisdom and help others understand the truth!

This week’s lesson is to help you remove **what you think** and replace it with **what God thinks**.

#### Questions for Review

1. Who is the Good Shepherd?
2. What is the result of being justified by faith found in Romans 5:1?
3. State the Scripture reference that is the Biblical proof that He is not only the Son of God but God the Son!
4. What does **“the Who before the What”** mean?
5. What are the two driving forces to conquer any addiction?
6. The Bible is the mind of God through what?
7. How is sanctification accomplished?
8. Why is the Word capitalized in John 1:1?
9. What are the two places in the Bible reference having total freedom from addictions?

10. What should you remove, and what should you replace it with?

(Answers to these questions are all located within the pages of this lesson)

Regardless of what some may say, or even what you may think, God loves you enough to make you free from your destructive addictions and restore your life to the purpose for which He created you: **“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created”** (Revelation 4:11). By changing your shepherd from yourself to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, you will begin to bring God the pleasure He desires. In addition, God wants to use you to tell others how to receive the same freedom you now enjoy by introducing them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. **“Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”** (James 5: 20).

God the Father wants His children to be successful and prosperous; **“Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long”** (Psalm 35:27, 28). As you continue to trust in Jesus, your new Shepherd, He will make you prosperous so you can cheerfully, without being ashamed, tell others about His great love—you are valuable in His eyes! **“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee”** (Psalm 51:12, 13).

Seek Knowledge

Apply the Newfound Knowledge and Wisdom to Your Life

Then, Teach Others the Secret to Your Success!

**“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”** (Matthew 5:19)

Memory Verse:

**“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”** (Joshua 1:8).

Suggested Reading:

Read a chapter of Proverbs every day. There are 31 chapters in the Book of Proverbs. Whatever the day of the month is, read the chapter with the same number as the date. Repeat this practice every day of your life!

Model prayer to help you remove what you think and replace it with what God thinks:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing me to have a copy of Your Holy Word. I am in great need of your help! I have sinned against You and I am sorry! Please help me understand everything You have written and give me the strength to apply each truth to my life. Help me become everything you want me to be. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

**Be sure to pass out at least five Gospel tracts this week and invite at least one person to come to class with you next week. Use your past to build your future!**